

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 13803 271456Z
ACTION NEA-11

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R 271449Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9664
INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION SINAI
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, EG, IZ, LY
SUBJ: "SABOTAGE RING" UNCOVERED; DRAFT LAW IMPLEMENTING
- REFERENDUM INTRODUCED

1. SUMMARY. MININTERIOR ALLEGES "EGYPTIAN LIBERATION FRONT" UNCOVERED, REPORTEDLY HEADED BY FORMER MINISTERS OF GOVERNMENT. 34 JOURNALISTS, WRITERS AND ARTISTS RESIDENT ABROAD UNDER INVESTIGATION, AS ARE TEN WRITERS BASED IN EGYPT. BILL IMPLEMENTING REFERENDUM INTRODUCED TO PARLIAMENT. IT WILL GIVE GOVERNMENT BROAD POWERS TO BAN INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. EGYPTIAN LIBERATION FRONT. MAY 27 AKHBAR EL YOM FRONT PAGES REPORT THAT MININT NABAWI HAS INFORMED SOCIALIST PROSECUTOR GENERAL OF EXISTENCE LIBYAN-FINANCED "LIBERATION FRONT OF EGYPT". ORGANIZATION ALLEGEDLY INCLUDES FORMER "CENTERS OF POWERS", AS WELL AS JOURNALS.
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PAGE 02 CAIRO 13803 271456Z

LISTS AND ACTORS RESIDING ABROAD. FRONT REPORTEDLY RESPONSIBLE FOR ATTACKS ON EGYPT WHICH HAVE APPEARED IN FOREIGN NEWSPAPERS AND RADIO BROADCASTS. ADDITIONALLY, GROUP SAID TO HAVE PLANNED SABOTAGE (ALTHOUGH NO SPECIFIC INCIDENTS CITED).

3. MEMBERS. LIBYAN WING OF ORGANIZATION, ACCORDING

AKHBAR EL YOM, INCLUDES FORMER MINISTERS ABDEL MEGID FARID AND DR. HEKMET ABU ZAID, AS WELL AS MUSTAPHA ABDEL NASSER HUSSEIN, ABDEL GHANY QAMAR, AND SAID HABIB.

4. PAAERS SEPARATELY LIST 34 WRITERS, JOURNALISTS AND ARTISTS, RESIDENT IN IRAQ, LEBANON, LIBYA AND EUROPE, WHO ARE UNDER INVESTIGATION BY SOCIALIST PROSECUTOR FOR ANTI-EGYPTIAN ACTIVITIES. TEN EGYPTIAN BASED WRITERS (NO NAMES) ALSO BEING SCRUTINIZED.

5. BAN. ACCORDING PRESS, BILL IMPLEMENTING REFERENDUM WILL BE INTRODUCED IN PEOPLES ASSEMBLY TODAY, MAY 27. BILL SAID TO BAN ANY DOCTRINE CONTRARY TO PRINCIPLES JULY 23 REVOLUTION. ADDITIONALLY, IT EXPECTED BAN FROM PUBLIC LIFE INDIVIDUALS "PROVED BY SOCIALIST PUBLIC PROSECUTOR" TO HAVE PROMOTED DOCTRINES DENYING "THE CANONS OF THE HEAVENLY REVOLUTIONS". FURTHER, INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE BEEN CONVICTED OF VIOLATING ARTICLES 98 AND 174 OF PENAL CODE WILL BE BARRED FROM LABOR UNIONS, PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS, BOARDS OF JOINT STOCK COMPANIES, AND PUBLIC SOCIETIES. INDIVIDUALS "FOUND BY SOCIALIST PUBLIC PROSECUTOR" TO HAVE ADVOCATED PHILOSOPHIES "CONFLICTING WITH HEAVENLY REVELATIONS" LIKEWISE WILL BE BARRED FROM RUNNING FOR PUBLIC POSITIONS. BAN WILL EXTEND TO MEMBERS OF PRE-1952 POLITICAL PARTIES (OTHER THAN NATIONALIST OR SOCIALIST PARTY). FINALLY, INDIVIDUALS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 CAIRO 13803 271456Z

CONVICTED BY "REVOLUTIONARY COURT OF CRIME NUMBER 1 OF 1971" (CENTERS OF POWER) ALSO WILL BE BARRED FROM MEMBERSHIP IN CURRENT POLITICAL PARTIES.

6. COMMENT. SOCIALIST PROSECUTOR AND PARLIAMENT APPEAR TO BE WORKING IN TANDEM ON IMPLEMENTING REFERENDUM. PROSECUTOR APPARENTLY CONCENTRATING INITIAL EFFORTS ON EGYPTIANS RESIDING ABROAD, ALTHOUGH AT LEAST SOME DOMESTIC JOURNALISTS ARE LIKELY TO BE AFFECTED--PARTICULARLY THOSE WHO HAVE PUBLISHED ABROAD (HAYKAL). MATTHEWS

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